

Aliiolani Hale
(Judiciary Building)
463 King Street
Honolulu
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS No. HI-18

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PHOTOGRAPHS

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ALI'IOLANI HALE
(JUDICIARY BUILDING)

HABS No. HI-18

ADDRESS: 463 King Street, Honolulu, Honolulu County, Hawaii

OWNER: State of Hawaii

OCCUPANT: Judiciary Department, State of Hawaii

USE: Court Rooms, Legal Library, and offices

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 1871 King Kamehameha V commissioned two architects in Sydney, Australia, through the Hawaiian Consul there, to submit plans for a new royal palace in Honolulu. "It is the intention of this government ... to commence operations as soon as they can procure suitable plans; but, as we have no Architect here, capable of designing such a building, and an Architect in the Northern Countries would not be likely to have a proper appreciation of the nature of the climate of these Islands, and its requirements, it has appeared to His Excellency probable that in Sydney, where the summer climate is very similar to ours, an Architect might be found more likely to be able to design an appropriate building." To guide the architects in preparing their plans, it was pointed out that the "style of building considered most suitable is the Italian, of one Storey in height; ... The building materials we have here are very limited in variety, consisting of rough lava stone which cannot be dressed except at great cost, but in composition stone or concrete, made with Portland cement, gravel and black stone, we can make blocks of almost any size or shape. Coral stone which is abundant is fitted only for the rudest structures and must not be thought of in a building of this class. Lumber of all kinds can be obtained here, as also slates and other roofing materials, but slates are found to be the best suited to the climate."

It appears that at about the same time plans were underway for a Government Building and the need for this building was even more urgent than that for a palace. Officials were scattered in rented offices around the town, the legislature had no home, and the courts had long since outgrown their quarters in the old coral Court House on Queen Street. Suggestions were made to develop a government center on the Esplanade at the foot of Fort Street, on recently reclaimed land owned by the government. This area, it was urged, was close to the business interests of Honolulu, and with the government printing office nearby, would make a convenient civic center. Kamehameha V, however, envisioned a civic center around the palace, and plans were made to purchase the Mililani premises on King Street, "a long and fatiguing journey (away) over the dustiest street in the city."²

When the architectural plans for the palace arrived from Australia, Mr. Robert Stirling, Superintendent of Public Works, decided to discard the original plans for the Government Building in favor of an adaptation of Scheme "B" for the palace as prepared by Mr. Thomas Rowe, one of the architects commissioned in Sydney. " ... the arrival of the plans was most opportune, as we were just commencing to build our New Government offices, upon a very indifferent plan, and no sooner had [Stirling] seen Mr. Rowe's Design B than he conceived that - with modification which I shall presently state - it would answer well as a plan for these offices and further consideration confirmed him in this view, so that he has now determined to adopt it. The alteration of the Plan proposed, applies only to the wings, the body of the building remaining the same as before. The verandah all round will be dispensed with, and will be retained only on the front and rear of the Main building. The Wings will be of the same length as in the Design, but will be 5 feet wider and the semicircular ends will be cut off. The end view of the building will therefore shew

the wing, with a straight front, with a central doorway and 4 windows on either side of it on the ground floor plan and 9 windows in a row on the first floor plan. I fear the Architect will not approve of this change for sundry reasons, but, only in some such way can we hope to see it carried out." Although it seems Mr. Rowe approved and was to collaborate in the adaptation, Stirling went ahead alone as it was impossible to wait for working drawings from Sydney before beginning. Rowe's influence on the final design is uncertain. Unfortunately, neither the drawings for the Palace nor the changes made by Stirling are extant. The Hawaii State Archives does, however, possess Rowe's specification and description of Scheme "B" as well as the proposed changes by Stirling. A fire insurance map of 1885 indicates a sketch plan of the first floor of the building,³ presumably Stirling's adaptation.

Construction of the Government Building was supervised by Robert Lishman, one of the two men brought to Hawaii from Australia in answer to a request by Mr. Stirling to the Hawaiian Consul at Sydney. This request was made in February 1871, five months prior to the request for Palace plans. As construction of buildings of "considerable magnitude" was under consideration, the supply of skilled and steady workers in Honolulu was felt to be inadequate to the need. Stirling wanted two young, steady and intelligent builders, but he pointed out that "our work will be chiefly done in concrete, so that simple stone cutters will not serve our purpose. What we want them for chiefly is to look after and teach the natives and to set the blocks of concrete on the buildings." The Account Books of the Department of Public Works for this period show payment of a bill for transportation of these two men and subsequent wage payments to them for work on the Government Building. Lishman⁴ later achieved recognition as "architect" for King Lunalilo's tomb built in 1875.

Both Stirling and Lishman had been identified as the "builder" or "architect" of the Government Building. This loose identification prompted a letter to the editor of the Pacific Commercial Advertiser on June 6, 1874, hoping for "honor to whom honor is due. I have been informed that the plans of the building, now known as Aliiolani House, were drawn by Mr. T. Rowe No. 561, Pitt Street, Sydney, at a cost of \$1200, for a palace, altered here by Mr. Robert Stirling and approved by Dr. Hutchison. The artistic finish, so far as that means the carpenter work, was done by Mr. Wm. Dean; but if the painting and graining is meant, that has been and still is under the charge of Mr. J.W. Gibbs. Perhaps, however, the hard finish and the ornamental work of the plastering is what is referred to, and if that is so, then that portion, of the work was executed by Mr. Van Dyke and Mr. T. P. Cleary, who were sent for from abroad, for that purpose."

Ground was broken for the Government Building at the end of 1871 and the cornerstone was laid on February 19, 1872 with full Masonic ceremony. The new building was of concrete block, a technique first used in 1870 when the government built the Post Office building. Although Stirling wished to support the first floor with iron girders, in view of the uncertainty as to the length of time it might take to procure them, wooden beams were used instead. Without plans and specifications, the major building materials can only be surmised from the account books of the Public Works Department. There is a quantity of "lava stone for foundations, 17 ventilator gratings, slates, surface redwood, mouldings, etc., 4 bolts for vaults and 1 10'-6" girder, copper strap for capitals, 52 pieces 10" x 13" for girders, timber for roof (29,000) and 40,000 T and G, 2415 lbs. ironwork for roof." The many entries for gravel, cement and wages indicate that the huge concrete blocks and mouldings were probably cast on the site. Unfortunately, no records beyond March 1873 were found, so that a complete picture of the

construction cannot be made.⁶

The finished structure, officially opened by the Legislature on April 30, 1874, was variously described as "a huge sin and a blunder," a "splendid monstrosity," a "large structure, and a fine one -- almost too grand for a small people like the Hawaiians," and a building of "fine proportions and artistic finish." It cost \$120,000 to build, and was named "Aliiolani," one of the titles given to Kamehameha V, in honor of the sovereign under whose reign it had been projected. The general feeling was that the new building was uselessly large, and the government could well re-consider the old Esplanade site for a smaller government house and turn Aliiolani Hale into a Palace -- for which it would be well suited by simply closing off a wing or two -- thereby allowing the lot occupied by the old Palace to become available for development as a handsome city park.⁷

The new building was also characterized as very breezy, producing chronic colds among the employees; internally so involved as to require a signboard and printed directory for locating the "habitat of the various officials;" and infested with a species of "superior, long-billed, active" mosquito.⁸

Out in the yard, the flagpole, recently erected, took a decided list mauka, as if bracing against the trade-winds; and excavations for planting trees turned up an adobe cellar wall and a slab of Chinese granite with quaint Chinese characters engraved thereon. The slab made its way to the new Government Museum, finally established in a second floor room of the new building. The National Museum was to accept all objects of interest, including "Old Hawaiian implements, Dresses, Ornaments and Utensils, Hawaiian Minerals and preserved Zoological specimens." The Government Library occupied another upstairs room, much of the collection having come from the estate of the late W.H. Pease.⁹

A clock with four dials, six feet across the face, had been installed in the tower in April 1874. In November of that year, a kona storm flooded the clock tower and water poured into the rooms below, damaging many of the ceilings.¹⁰

If nobody else liked it, Kalakaua, elected king in February 1874, found the new Government building an excellent place in which to entertain. A grand ball presented March 3, 1875, produced glowing descriptions in the press, including the layout of the interior of the building. "Through the upper story and ground floor are roomy halls, intersecting in the centre at right angles, which afford access to the numerous and capacious rooms arranged along their sides. The largest room in this fine building, situated at the south-east end on the ground floor, is the Legislative Hall, its dimensions being about one hundred and twenty feet in length by forty feet in breadth."

The chambers of the Ministers of the Interior and Finance were at the left of the entrance on the first floor, while the chambers of the Governor and Attorney General were on the second floor. The northwest room of the second floor housed the museum. During another fancy ball in March 1883, folding doors between the main hall and an adjoining apartment where lunch was served were noted and for the occasion, permanent chandeliers and brackets had been fitted throughout the Legislative Hall and first floor offices. In 1885 the government requested permission to tap into the line supplying the Music Hall (located at King and Richards streets) for the purpose of obtaining sufficient gas for four or five burners in Aliiolani Hale.¹¹

During the revolution of 1893, the proclamation announcing the Provisional Government was read from the front door of Aliiolani Hale. In July 1893, Iolani Palace became the Executive Building and with the removal of these offices, Aliiolani Hale became the "Judiciary" building. The Supreme Court was moved upstairs, and other repairs were made to accomodate the

courts. By 1897, the uselessly large building was already showing signs of crowding and its tenants were complaining about poor housekeeping in the building.

The shift to Federal administration saw more repairs and rebuilding in 1900, including some new indoor plumbing facilities. These produced new problems as the unsophisticated "sailors and ingorant Chinamen" apparently didn't know how to use them.¹²

The next few years saw constant expenditures by way of both basic maintenance, and re-building to provide additional office space for the expanding courts. By 1911, major repairs had become necessary. Finally in 1913, the interior of the building was completely remodeled according to plans and specifications prepared by Ripley and Reynolds, Architects, Honolulu. Lord-Young Engineering Company was the Contractor. Plans are located in the State Public Works Department files. Nothing of the interior seems to have been retained. In addition to the rearrangement of office spaces, the character of public spaces and circulation was completely altered. The existing large rotunda at the crossing of the two axial corridors replaces a small open well which we are told was six feet square. The two rectangular well openings in the arms of the minor axial corridor were removed completely. The single flight of stairs in the rear (makai) corridor was replaced by two curved cast iron flights. The arched openings on each face of the octagon on the first floor were also introduced. Structurally, a system of steel columns, girders and beams supporting concrete slab floors and roofs replaced the earlier system. Concrete columns, beams and girders are indicated for the first floor support. Although the specifications have not been found, there is much correspondence between the Architect and the Superintendent of Public Works in the State Archives. In 1931, restrooms and a kitchenette were added on the roof.¹³

Over the years, the courts came into exclusive possession of Aliiolani Hale, but by 1938, additional space was again needed. The legislature provided an appropriation of some \$125,000 for renovations, but work was delayed while interested parties debated the virtues of a new judiciary building in a new location; more piece-meal patching; or razing the old one entirely. This last proposal, however, met with opposition; the building was a historic one, and, if anything had to be razed to provide space, why not the new Territorial Office Building next door, whose biggest fault, it was said, was its being fireproof. By 1939 it had been decided to built a wing nearly to Queen street along Mililani street, one story in height, with provision made to add another floor later. The architecture was to resemble the old building, but more wrangling over poor lighting, bad entrances and the fact that these government jobs were not open to private architects, delayed groundbreaking until March of 1941, and the new offices were not occupied until early in 1942. In late 1949, another "Judiciary Annex" wing was completed, housing the juvenile court and land court offices.¹⁴

Ten years later, in 1959, complaints were growing again over crowded, dingy, poorly lighted quarters, badly designed because they had grown in disjointed stages. With the final removal of the juvenile court to their new quarters, the whole building was refurbished once again in 1965, at a cost exceeding the total expenditure for building it in the 1870's.¹⁵

References:

¹ Interior Department Book 9; June 24, 1871; pp. 111, 113.

² PCA; Dec 16, 1871; 2
HG; Feb 14, 1872; 3

³ Interior Department Book 9; Dec. 15, 1871; p. 138.
Ditto; March 17, 1872; p. 143.

- ⁴Interior Department Book 9; Feb. 25, 1871; p. 99.
Public Works Account Book; 1868-1873; p. 95.
- ⁵PCA; June 6, 1874; 2.
- ⁶HG; Feb. 14, 1872; 3.
Interior Department Book 9; March 17, 1872; p. 143.
Public Works Account Book; 1868-1873; pp. 95-99.
- ⁷PCA; Jan 10, 1874; 2 .
HG; May 8, 1872; 2 .
HG; Apr 29, 1874; 2
PCA; May 2, 1874; 2
HG; Dec 24, 1873; 2
HG; May 27, 1874; 2
HG; June 3, 1874; 2
- ⁸PCA; June 13, 1874; 3
PCA; Oct 31, 1874; 3
- ⁹PCA; Jul 11, 1874; 3
HG; Jul 22, 1874; 3
HG; Sept 9, 1874; 2
PCA; Jul 18, 1874; 3
- ¹⁰PCA; Apr 25, 1874; 3
PCA; Nov 21, 1874; 3
- ¹¹HG; Mar 3, 1875
PCA; Mar 27, 1883; 3
Interior Department Book 25; Feb 16, 1885; p. 618.
- ¹²Public Works/ Miscellaneous; 1900; n.d.
- ¹³Files of Letters; Superintendent of Public Works; 1905-1913.
Adv.; Jun 4, 1911; 4
THA; 1914; 5
- ¹⁴Adv.; May 20, 1938; 1
Adv.; Jun 17, 1938; 1
Adv.; Dec 6, 1939; 11
SB; Jan 19, 1940; 4
Adv.; Feb 23, 1940; 1
SB; Nov 12, 1949; 2
- ¹⁵Adv.; Aug 9, 1959; A-19
Adv.; May 8, 1965; 8-7

Explanation of abbreviations in references:

Adv.	-	Advertiser
HG	-	Hawaiian Gazette
PCA	-	Pacific Commercial Advertiser
SB	-	Star-Bulletin
THA	-	Thrum's Hawaiian Annual

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ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural interest and merit:

Having been adapted from drawings originally proposed as a palace, the quiet dignity of this evidently English inspired ideal of Italian Renaissance asserts its importance in the area of the Honolulu Civic Center with its mixture of architectural styles, both historic and modern.

Historically, its importance lies more in the fact that it demonstrates one of the earliest uses of concrete block masonry in the United States. The casting of large concrete blocks to resemble cut stone details at such an early date is significant in the history of architecture in the United States.

However, this significance of masonry bearing walls is partially lost, particularly in the interior where major alterations in 1911-1913 have imposed modern steel columns and beams and reinforced concrete slabs. A

large two-story addition on the makai (seaward) side in 1941-42 has all but destroyed the rear elevation. Although this addition is executed to duplicate the details and workmanship of the original, there is a marked inferiority in the concrete work, particularly in the definition of decorative details.

Condition of fabric:

Structurally, the condition of the exterior walls appear to be sound without major cracks. However, many of the cast concrete cornice mouldings are broken or damaged. Surface damage to the walls themselves appears mainly in an almost continuous band of pitting near the base, possibly resulting from the action of lawn sprinklers.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXTERIOR

The building is two stories in height measuring $35' - 5\frac{1}{2}"$ from the top of the cornice to the top of the base course. The four-story central tower rises $81' - 4\frac{1}{2}"$ from the top of the base course to the top surface of the crowning balustrade. The symmetrical plan is an H-shape modified by the central tower which projects forward to the plane of the two end pavilions. Flanking the tower are recessed lanais (porches). Over-all dimensions are $173' - 8"$ across the front by $118' - 4"$ deep.

Foundations:

According to the Public Works Account Book, foundations are lava stone, a portion of which is visible in a surface break on the front. Correspondence indicates that the 1911 concrete floor slab is on a fill of broken concrete, although the Architect's plans show a system of concrete columns and beams.

Wall construction:

The exterior bearing walls are constructed of large concrete blocks, the major ones varying in length from 3' - 0" to 4' - 10". They have a smooth-surfaced face 11½" high, projecting from convex moulded edges. Together with the tooled ¾" joints the overall course height is 15". The wall thickness on the first floor is 22" and 17" on the second floor. The surface of the blocks is a smooth concrete stucco of light ivory color. On the first floor the walls are articulated by a rhythm of large piers framing arched windows. The piers terminate in a moulded capital from which the arches of the openings spring. The exterior angles of the pavilions are framed with projected piers which extend the full two stories and repeat the moulding of the piers, the belt course, and the cornice. The sill of the windows on the second floor is continued as a belt course. The wall terminates in a cornice and a cast concrete balustrade set between paneled pedestals. The latter terminate in globular urns.

Porches:

The lanais (porches) on the mauka (King Street) elevation are treated with coupled Ionic columns to form three major bays each, the extreme columns being engaged to the abutting walls. The spacing of each pair of end columns is closer than that of the intermediate pairs. The axial entrance is located at the base of the tower. Here the quoins of the tower frame a large arched opening which is flanked by double engaged Ionic columns. This arch is $9' - 6\frac{1}{2}"$ wide and $16' - 4\frac{1}{2}"$ high. Undecorated arched openings separate the axial entrance bay from the flanking lanais. Cast concrete balustrades are set between the colonnade of the lanais, with subtle differences existing in the treatment of the balustrade pedestals on the various floors. On the first floor the pedestals are smooth, while on the second floor they are decorated with a recessed panel horizontally disposed. The pedestals on the roof balustrade also contain recessed panels, but the direction is vertical.

A very early, undated, photograph shows a view of the lanais on the rear of the original building prior to the 1941 additions on Queen Street. It appears that the first floor was enclosed by a colonnade similar to the existing first floor lanai on King Street. On the second floor, however, the lanai is shown to be open and unroofed.

Openings - doorways and doors:

The single existing arched exterior doorway on King Street is the main

entrance to the building. The original rear entrance is now the connecting doorway to the addition on the rear. On the ewa (right) and Waikiki (left) facades, an arched opening, on the central axis and with the same dimensions as the windows, contains an iron grill, enclosing a small triangular entranceway. Early photographs disclose steps at these openings.

The entrance doors on King street are not original. They are two mahogany doors, with 10 inset square panels each, separated from a fan light by a transom bar. The fan consists of a half circle light bordered by six small radiating lights. The solid doors are flanked on each side by solid 5 paneled side panels. Brass pull handles and 3 pairs of brass hinges comprise the hardware.

At the end of each lanai (porch), there is a modern four-paneled door with glazed arched transom set into the window width openings.

Windows:

On the first floor, the arched window openings are recessed within larger rusticated arches and piers. The window surround is stucco, 9" wide, with the joints visible but not rusticated. Modern windows are 1/1 wood double-hung. The spandrel between the moulded sill and the base course of the wall consists of a recessed panel with an elongated pyramidal motif in smooth stucco relief.

On the second floor, identical sash are used although the stucco surround is absent. The moulded sill is continued across the facade as a belt course and the arched opening is trimmed with projecting moulding at the head only.

Windows on the fourth floor in the tower are narrow arched 4/4 wood double-hung.

An 1899 photograph indicates that all windows on the first and second floor at that time were 6/6 double-hung.

Roof:

The existing roof has a slight slope with a modern built-up roofing. Various mechanical pent-houses and skylights have been installed on it.

Early photographs, dated 1893 and 1898 indicate that there were four low-pitched hipped roofs, one over each pavilion and two over the central portion, perpendicular to the pavilions. Urns were placed on the ridges of each hip.

Cornice, eaves:

The crowning cornice below the balustrade roof consists of classical profiles in cast concrete, below which is a large-scaled band of dentils over a band of egg and dart decoration. The scale and the crispness of definition is outstanding. The cornice continues as part of the entablature of the Ionic columns on the second floor and as a belt course across the face of the tower. The frieze and architrave of the entablature are undecorated.

The entablature of the columns on the first floor is similar except that the dentils are of much smaller scale.

Towers:

The axial clock tower over the entrance is articulated in four stages, each of which is treated differently. At the first level there is the entrance arch described above. At the second level three pairs of engaged Ionic columns define two bays, each containing an arched vertical window opening, now sealed with modern cement stucco, although they were operating windows

in the 1899 photograph. The spandels of the openings at this level consist of concrete balustrades. At the third level, the composition of engaged columns and window openings repeats. Details, however, are different. The spandrel consists of a smooth surfaced center panel flanked by two side panels decorated with a band of quatre-foils inset within diamonds. Also the frieze above the engaged column has the following carved inscription: "KAMEHAMEHA ELIMA, KA MOI" ("Kamehameha V, the King"). The cornice above contains a large-scaled band of dentils corresponding to the major cornice. The clock-face on all four sides at the fourth level is 6'-0" in diameter enclosed within a moulded frame 7' - 9" over-all diameter. It is centrally disposed between two 4/4 double-hung arched windows. The windows are framed by engaged paneled pilasters and moulded arched head. A spandrel panel decorated with a band of inter locking circles (guilloche) extends horizontally between the framing quoins of the tower. Just below the crowning cornice of the tower is a frieze inscribed "UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO" ("The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. "). The cornice contains the heavy dentils and egg and dart motifs of the main structure. The tower terminates in a cast concrete balustrade set between four pedestals, with an urn and ball set on each of the four corners. On the King Street facade, inset panels in the pedestals contain the date 1-8-7-2, one numeral for each pedestal. A flag pole rises above the center of the tower.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INTERIOR

The interior has undergone several changes, partitions having been added and removed as needs arose. The simple symmetrical plan shown in the 1895 Fire Insurance map indicates that the central block contained four major rooms separated axially in both directions by wide corridors, the major axial corridor being the widest. Two oblong wells parallel to the minor axial corridor and a square well at the crossing of the two corridors are

indicated. The early aerial photograph shows what appears to be skylights over these wells, between the two hipped roofs. The minor corridor terminated at each end with a major room which occupied the entire pavilions perpendicular to the street. A single stairway was located in a rather utilitarian manner in the rear portion of the main corridor. Presently, the crossing now consists of a two-story octagonal space which is supported at the angles by large piers measuring 4' - 8" on the outside face and 2' - 10" on the inside face. Paired columns and arches, in a Palladian design, are inserted between the supporting piers. On the first floor, the two which are on each side of the entrance arch enclose doorways leading to existing offices. On the opposite faces of these doorways the modern stairway begins under the open arches. The four remaining axial arches lead to wide corridors. A balcony surrounds the open rotunda on all sides. Floor to floor height is 18' - 1". The arched effect between piers of the first floor is repeated on the balcony, although there are no major corridors leading from it. These arched openings now enclose doorways leading to various functions of the judiciary.

Stairways:

Cast iron stairways between the first and second floors are a combination of straight and curved flights, on each side of the rear (makai) corridor. The curved lower flight extends out into the open central space under the arches. The straight flights meet at a common landing on the rear second floor corridor. The existing stairs consist of 32 risers @ 6 19/32" with varying sized treads. The ornamental cast iron railing terminates in a cast iron newel post capped with a pineapple urn. A wrought iron foliated scroll is affixed to the newel post and the bottom tread. The exposed stringer is decorated with bands of acanthus and bead and reel motifs.

In a small niche off the rear corridor a modern iron spiral stair leads to a set of upper rooms on the roof. There is also a wood spiral stairway connecting the third and fourth floors in the tower. The third and fourth floor plans consist of single spaces each.

Flooring:

Floors are modern asphalt tile.

Wall and ceiling finish:

Existing interior walls are of various finishes, consisting of painted plaster, wood paneling, and modern glass and wood moveable partitions. The walls of the entrance corridor are painted concrete block.

Ceilings are plaster combined with modern accoustical tile and luminous ceilings. The existing Supreme Court room has a decorative plaster ceiling medallion all but hidden by the exposed air conditioning ducts dropped below the ceiling.

Doorways and doors:

It is highly doubtful if any of the doors are original. The majority of the doors are 4 panel, with the top panel glazed with figured glass. On the second floor, the doorways on the rotunda are trimmed with decorative round pediments supported on flat jig-sawed scrolls, and moulded trim at the jambs. The doors average 5' - 0" wide and 7' - 0" high.

Decorative features and trim:

Principal decoration is achieved in the rotunda and the entrance corridor. In the latter, the barrel vaulted ceiling is defined by simple border of flat bands of moulding. This ceiling springs from a projected flat soffit supported by modillion brackets. The walls of the corridor are painted concrete block outlined at top and sides with an applied flat band. Traces of previous mouldings are visible.

The major supporting piers of the rotunda are treated with a moulded capital. Engaged to these piers is a rectangular pilaster sharing a common base and entablature with a column in the round. The column caps are simply an egg and dart moulded echinus, below which four rosettes are applied to the necking. The entablature is membered with classical profiles. The head of the arch is also moulded with an applied Corinthian keystone.

A flat octagonal shaped skylight in colored glass is set in the coved ceiling of the rotunda.

Notable hardware:

All hardware is modern.

Lighting:

The lighting is all modern, fluorescent and incandescent.

Environmental controls:

All major spaces in the building are centrally air-conditioned. There is no heating.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

The building faces King Street on the mauka (landward) side. It is not parallel to the street, being 150' from the curb at the closest point on the ewa side and 210' on the Waikiki side. It is situated between Mililani street on the ewa (right) side and the relatively modern State Office Building on the left. The 1942 addition interposes between the original structure and Queen street on the makai (back) side.

An outstanding feature on the exterior is the imposing gilt trimmed statue of Kamehameha I located on a lawn within a circular drive in front of the building. This drive connects to an asphalt paved driveway and parking

area immediately adjacent to the front lanais. A drive and parking space also consumes most of the Waikiki (left) side of the property. Green lawns are planted on the remaining two sides of the building.

A great variety of tropical trees are found on the property in an informal array. These include the following: Monkey pod, Octopus, Golden shower, Indian Banyan, Royal palm, Coconut palm, Tamarind, Banana, Mondo grass, Maidenhair fern, Pleomalo, Blue ginger, Red ginger and Privet hedge.

Prepared by,

Woodrow W. Wilkins

Woodrow W. Wilkins
Supervisory Architect
HABS Hawaii II Project

July 1967

ALIIOLANI HALE

Early Photographs - State Archives

#1642-B - (1898) - 4 hipped roofs visible - ridge comb decorated with urns at center.

(1893) - Jan 17th - morning American flag was raised - hipped roofs visible. Also windows in 2nd floor of tower were glazed.

#1644 - (1899) - first floor windows all 6/6 d-h. Also tower windows - 2nd and 3rd floors are 4/4 d-h.

#2341 - (undated) - aerial view showing hipped roofs.

#714 - (undated) - view from waterfront towards rear of building - the lanai on the rear 2nd floor was not roofed and therefore not treated with columnade as the King Street elevation.

(April 20, 1883) - Woodcut - shows circular wood picket fence and gate - also hipped roofs with weather vanes.

(1881) - picket fence between high concrete posts with decorated caps.

(1881) - "Welcome to the King" shows wood fence in foreground with concrete posts.

(1935) - Building with fence removed.

ALIIOLANI HALE - Pertinent Existing Drawings in Dept. of Public Works Files

Alterations and repairs - large set approved by Marston Campbell, Sup't of Public Works, Aug 25, 1911 includes Foundation plan, first and second floors (*), framing plans, roof framing plan, details, stairs and windows.

Proposed alterations by Marston Campbell dated Dec 1908 include King Street elevation showing basement and mansard roof with classical dormers added at top. It appears that Mr. Marston proposed 3 separate schemes for major alterations in 1908.

Drawings by Hart Wood, Architect for 2nd story addition - makai wing dated April 1948.

New makai addition to rear-drawings by Dept. Public Works, Jan 1941.

Various air-conditioning and lighting alterations dated Dec 1962 and Dec 1965.

Lighting plan dated May 1913.

*Indicates first floor framed with concrete beams and girders (9" x 12", 12" x 16", 12" x 18") and 4" concrete slab. Upper floor framing steel columns and beams.